

CLAIMS

1. A protective coating removable with a removing agent comprising a strong base and a complex former, which protective coating comprises a pigment and a binder, the binder being a polymer having a weight-average molecular weight of 10,000-100,000 and an acid value of 40-250.

2. A protective coating according to claim 1, wherein the binder has a weight-average molecular weight of 15,000-75,000, preferably of 20,000-50,000.

3. A protective coating according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the acid value of the binder is between 60 and 160.

4. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the binder has a polydispersity of 2-6.

5. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the glass transition temperature of the binder is between 10 and 60°C, preferably between 20 and 50°C.

6. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the binder is a vinyl polymer.

7. A protective coating according to claim 6, wherein the vinyl polymer is based on one or more monomers selected from the group of methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, styrene, methacrylic acid, and acrylic acid.

8. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the binder is present in an amount of 4-60% by weight, based on the weight of the protective coating.

9. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pigment is selected from the group of calcium carbonate, titanium oxide, a silicate, such as magnesium or aluminum silicate, gypsum, baryte, and combinations thereof.

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10. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pigment is present in an amount of 30-95% by weight, based on the weight of the protective coating.

5 11. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective coating further comprises an adhesion promoter.

12. A protective coating according to claim 11, wherein the adhesion promoter is selected from the group of 10 silanes.

13. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective coating further comprises a pigment divider.

14. A protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the protective coating further comprises a thickener.

15. A protective agent comprising a pigment and a water-carried binder, wherein the binder is a polymer having a weight-average molecular weight of 10,000-100,000 20 and an acid value of 40-250, for forming a removable protective coating according to any one of the preceding claims.

16. A protective agent according to claim 15, wherein the protective agent further comprises a weak base selected 25 from the group of ammonia, mono-, di- and trialkylamines, with the alkyl group containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

17. A protective agent according to claim 16, wherein the weak base is present in an amount of 0.2-5% by weight, based on the weight of the protective agent.

30 18. A method for forming a protective coating which is removable with a removing agent comprising a strong base and a complex former, wherein a protective agent according to claims 15-17 is applied to a substantially transparent surface, which protective agent, after drying, forms the 35 protective coating.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the substantially transparent surface is an outside wall surface of a greenhouse.

20. A method for removing a protective coating according to ~~Claims 1-14~~, wherein the protective coating is treated with a removing agent which comprises a strong base and a complex former.

10 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 1-10% by weight, based on the weight of the removing agent.

22. A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the complex former is present in an amount of 2-10% by weight, based on the weight of the removing agent.

15 23. A method according to ~~claims 20-22~~, wherein the removing agent further comprises an organic solvent.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group of tetrahydrofuran, benzyl alcohol, and higher alcohols.

20 25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the removing agent comprises 10-30% by weight, based on the weight of the removing agent, of benzyl alcohol.

26. A kit comprising a protective agent according to ~~Claims 15-17~~ and a removing agent, which removing agent is suitable for use in a method according to ~~claims 20-25~~.

25 27. Use of a polymer having a weight-average molecular weight of 10,000-100,000 and an acid value of 40-250 as binder in a protective agent.

28. Use of benzyl alcohol for removing a protective agent from a transparent surface.

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